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Time To Understand

SOME fourteen years ago, when the United Nations Organization came into being with its charter for international fair dealing, the principal task of composing peace in a world still at war was placed in the hands of the five chief powers on the side of the victors. They were to bring the conflicts then waging to an end, write the peace treaties, and hand on to the United Nations the task of preserving a full peace the world over. Such was the aim, and so today it stands written in the UN charter and attending conventions.

Nearly a decade and a half has passed since Germany and Japan, in that order, yielded their swords. The necessary occupation of both lands was differently arranged. A four-power trust was made responsible for the military occupation of Germany, to prevent the rebirth of Nazism. The deeding of that trust was a formal one by many nations in convention and it still is operative, despite Soviet Russia's move to edge out now in favor of Soviet East Germany. On the Western side there have also been some defections. Bit by bit the authority and usefulness of the United Nations as an open forum of world thought have been shunted. Regional pacts, bilateral conventions and other means have split up and confused the original clear mandate.

Is it too late to go back? Before the body of world nations and world opinion would any one nation press for special uneven privilege with the hope of getting it? An East and a West with no common approach between them has come into being. The East through statism is unified, and unreasonable. The West is too loosely concerted, and often ineffectual. Meanwhile stakes in the grim game have risen. As Archbishop Harold Sexton has asked succinctly, is "co-extermination" an alternative to "co-existence"? With today's means of outright immolation, there is, and there can be, no alternative to a patient and earnest search for understanding which could in its turn promote a genuine peace. This is no time for a hardening of national attitudes, but for a meeting of minds—while there is time.

The Defence Dollar

A SENATOR, a Conservative one at that, voiced some disquiet last week over military expenditures. He said Canadians are tired of the burden of defence costs. Probably they are. Like other nationals equally hard pressed the price of protection in today's troubled world comes high to them. Unless they are mistaken pacifists, however, they know their country cannot be left defenceless. And that a defence budget is inescapable.

What worries many people, however, is the thought that defence monies may be ill-spent. Weapons are unlike welfare matters, or freight rates, or public works programs—all subjects prone to public understanding. The man in the street can only guess at the virtue of some military expense, because normally it is beyond his ken. This does not relieve his mind about waste or extravagance, however.

As an example it is said that a French anti-tank missile has been ordered for use by Canada's soldiers. The number ordered is not disclosed and presumably it is not large, for the report says the army wants to evaluate its effectiveness. Surely it is strange to order a weapon that has not already been proved effective. Similarly the Bomarc missile to be purchased from the U.S. by Canada has not yet been fully tested.

This is the kind of thing that raises doubts. In these days governments are admittedly in a dilemma about what to buy and how much. So are the people who foot the bills. Senator Thorvaldson thinks the time is ripe for an exhaustive and systematic review of defence expenditures. He may well be right. When about a third of the national budget is devoted to military defence—and running close to two billions—there is excuse for anxiety that every dollar should be spent to the best advantage.

Mr. Pickersgill Forgets

HAS the ebullient Mr. Pickersgill, now that his party sits in opposition in the House of Commons, turned his back on the immigration policy enunciated by the late Mr. Mackenzie King? Mr. Pickersgill, who until recently handled the immigration portfolio himself—and made a very poor job of it—has been waxing loquacious in criticism of what he assumes to be the policy of his successor, Mrs. Ellen Fairclough.

In particular, he has been sniping at changes in the regulations with respect to the sponsorship of immigrants by relatives already settled in Canada. It has been common practice in some countries, notably Italy, for one or two members of a family to establish themselves in North America and then sponsor the migration of large numbers of sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, in-laws and cousins. Under a recent cabinet decision permissible sponsorship has been narrowed considerably.

Mr. Pickersgill asserts that this restriction was aimed at a single country, Italy, because Italian immigrants last year outnumbered new arrivals from the British Isles. Has he conveniently forgotten the Liberal dictum pronounced by Mr. Mackenzie King and practiced by himself that Canadian immigration policy should be founded on preservation of ethnic balance within the country? Along with some of his former cabinet colleagues, Mr. Pickersgill seems to have had a change of mind regarding Liberal policy now that others are running the show.

Island Editors Say

'Nice Guys' Unpopular

It is a fact that some of the youth today find that it is unpopular to be a "nice guy" anymore; that to go to church, to do one's homework and to respect one's parents is to be a "square."

The desire to cheat—to get away with as much as possible without having to give in return, is present in all humans. Today it is a practice that has become too widespread.

It is a problem that should be of grave concern to parents and to teachers. But if the sense of values past generations held in respect is to be maintained, it is a problem that parents and teachers must face.

—CAMPBELL RIVER COURIER

Broken Horizons

Limited horizons are dangerous to a free people . . . Only a lifetime of continuing self-education through reading, after formal education is completed, can keep Canadians in watchful readiness to exercise responsible citizenship. Only a wide variety of reading can keep us abreast of what has been, and what is, and train the imagination to forge ahead into what might be in the future.

—COURTENAY ARGUS

Fitness for Education

One of the worst features of high school education today is the impression that the choice by students is dictated not so much by examination results as by the student's own particular preference. Examination results are surely a better guide as to fitness for a subject than the uneducated guess of a student.

Our province seeks to give every child as sound a general training as possible. It shrinks from the thought of one type of education for the well endowed, a different type for the less well endowed . . . There will be increasing opposition to paying mounting B.C. school bills, however. We must realize that some sort of compromise of our present system is needed now.

—COWICHAN LEADER

Protest Needed

Now, with rumors of another increase in power rates, it becomes even more important that all commission customers in the low cost parts of the system express themselves as forcibly as possible, because increased rates will almost certainly mean an increase in the subsidy as well.

This newspaper has no objection to the high-cost areas of the system receiving a subsidy. We do object most strongly, however, to the subsidy being charged only to those residents of the province who happen to live in the low-cost areas of the B.C. Power Commission.

—LADYSMITH CHRONICLE

10 Per Cent Increase

The part of the budget that should most concern the average person, and particularly the homemaker, is the increase in the sales tax, which is likely to bring about the biggest jump in living cost seen for a long time. This tax, which has now been increased from 10 to 11 per cent, affects almost every commodity commonly included among the necessities of life. This is a 10% increase in a 10% tax.

—WEST COAST ADVOCATE

The British Scene... by Giles

"As Mr. O'Toole will no doubt accept any benefits achieved by this conference perhaps he would be good enough to favour us with a few moments of his undivided attention."

London Express Service

Thinking Aloud

". . . of shoes—and ships—and sealing wax—of cabbages and kings."

By TOM TAYLOR

THERE were more things in heaven and earth than Horatio ever dreamt of, Hamlet told his friend, and a blase newsman in the Himalayas wondered the other day if perhaps the Dalai Lama hadn't invoked the gods to cover his escape from Tibet. He wouldn't venture to say he hadn't.

So, this morn, here is a "fey" story told me by Alec McCloy, connoisseur of ancient art and things that bespeak history. Put yourself in the mood and listen, it will take your mind off mundane matters.

It was a dark night, 50 years ago, and Alec sat before the great fireplace of Inverawe Castle, near where the river empties into Loch Etive in Argyllshire. Beside him was the Highland caretaker, an old woman across whose furrowed face flitted the flickering shadows of the dying fire. Outside the wind howled and the rain fell, and an eerie atmosphere enveloped the hall.

* * *

It was on such a night long ago, related the old woman, that Duncan Campbell sat by the same fire when he heard knocking at the door. He was amazed to see a man in Highland dress, wet and covered with blood, who claimed traditional shelter. He had just slain a Lorne man, he said, and he sought sanctuary from his pursuers. Reluctantly Inverawe swore on oath he would protect him, and after the stranger was cleaned and warmed he led him to a secret hiding place in the castle.

Campbell had just returned to the hall when some armed clansmen of his own clan arrived, in pursuit of a man thought to be Stewart of Appin, who had murdered Campbell's own cousin Donald. The oath kept Campbell silent, but afterwards he was troubled and could not sleep. Suddenly a pale unearthly light shone in his room and he beheld the shade of the murdered Donald, which said: "Inverawe, blood has been shed, shield not the murderer."

When dawn came Campbell called on the fugitive to depart, promising he would respect his oath, but the vision and warning were repeated that night and also on the third night, with the final words: "Farewell, Inverawe, till we meet at Ticonderoga." The words meant nothing to Campbell and none of his kinsmen could throw light on this odd-sounding name.

* * *

Some years later Donald Campbell joined the famous Black Watch and accompanied his regiment to North America. During the march against the French a friendly Indian guided them over the waters of Lake Champlain. Just as his canoe rounded a bend Fort Carillon appeared in the distance, and pointing to it the Indian said his people's name for it was Ticonderoga. When he heard this ominous word Campbell blanched, and some of his fellow officers who had heard the original story and scoffed at it, were rendered speechless.

Next morning, Campbell, pale and haggard, told his fellow officers: "The prophecy was true and the vision came to my tent last night." A short time later, while leading the assault on the fort, Major Duncan Campbell was wounded in the arm and died nine days later.

Such is the Legend of Inverawe, robbed perhaps in this brief version of the impressive quality conveyed by Alec McCloy as he recited the tale told to him 50 years ago by the aged caretaker of Inverawe Castle. It is believed to be an authentic Highland instance of second sight.

There are more things in heaven and earth, said Hamlet, and so well there may be.

Material and Spiritual Ties

Future of the British Commonwealth

The writer, a student of Esquimalt High School, is the winner of the essay competition sponsored among Greater Victoria high school students by the Rotary Club of Victoria.

By JO ANN ERICKSON

THE title British Commonwealth generally refers to the independent part of the British Empire. In its original organization in the Statute of Westminster in 1931 the members were Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa. Later additions have been India, Ceylon and Pakistan in 1947, Ghana in 1957 and Malaya in 1958.

These countries are "autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate to another in any respect of their external or internal affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the Crown and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations." This definition was accepted as part of the Statute of Westminster and ones similar in text were passed by the parliaments of the dominions.

* * *

The Commonwealth is held together by bonds of unity that are hard to define. These may be the Crown, the United Kingdom, the commonwealth conferences and the system of government.

The Crown is of great importance to the future and the unity of the Commonwealth for its symbolism is a political strength. It is a combination of material and spiritual ties. The roots are deep. The monarchy commands more from the people than any other personage. This loyalty is strengthened by the members of the Royal Family touring the Commonwealth countries, and meeting the people. All the Commonwealth countries, except India, accept the British monarch as the monarch of the British Commonwealth.

The United Kingdom was the centralizing power even after the dominions united into the Commonwealth. Today there is a move for decentralization. The change from self-absorption to equal status is an important one and the future of the democratic system will depend upon how well it is handled.

The system of government adopted by the Commonwealth countries follows the pattern of the British parliament. The unity of the Commonmonwealth owes much to common political institutions.

* * *

The Commonwealth Conferences discuss, mainly, two things: defence and transportation and communications. By agreement the Commonwealth countries will assist one another in war. This will act as a great deterrent to an aggressive nation. Also, because of the upkeep of trans-continental and inter-continental communications and transportation the member countries are in constant communication. These ties bring them closer together. They help to unify them. Some examples are the Trans-Pacific cable between Canada and Australia and the roads and railways connecting the British parts of Africa and those unifying the British parts of Asia. All these factors tend to unify the Commonwealth for the present and the future.

An enemy of the unity of the Commonwealth is communism. In Africa and Asia some areas in the Commonwealth are not equal in standards to the others. The people are uneducated; there is a lack of local industries and there are poor health and living conditions that make these areas a good stamping ground for communism.

Also, racial issues in parts of the Commonwealth cause dissension. Disagreements between member nations over the treatment of nationals have caused a split in unity. In South Africa the issue of apartheid is likely to lead to secession from the Commonwealth.

* * *

In the future the Commonwealth must be as amazingly ductile and elastic as it has been in the past. It is now becoming an international and inter-racial organization. The psychological factor of close co-operation could lead to world peace. The Commonwealth is and will be depended upon by the United States to help hold the balance of power. This makes the unity of the Commonwealth more important than ever.

Many of the new nations formed from the Empire will have their nationalism stimulated by the fact that they will be on equal status to the former mother country, the United Kingdom. Also, and particularly in the case of Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the Union of South Africa, nationalism will hold them, for if they were out of the Commonwealth they would have to turn to the United States for defence, and in the course of time might even come under her control.

The ties holding the British Commonwealth together are both weak and strong. For peace and security the unity of the Commonwealth must be preserved. It will serve as an illustration to other nations that multi-racial groups can get along with one another and that unity, for peace and security, is not impossible.

Silly Secrecy

(From The Milwaukee Journal)

AGAIN, from the storehouse of information in the hands of the House information sub-committee, comes an example of how silly government secrecy and red tape can be.

A citizen recently asked the treasury department for a form on which to apply for a national bank charter. It turned out that he would need five forms—Nos. 1900, 1902, 1903, 1918 and 2054. The treasury wanted to know why he wanted the forms. As they have a specific purpose, the reason should seem obvious. But the taxpayer got his back up and told the treasury that as a taxpayer who helps to pay for the forms, he was entitled to copies without being questioned.

Treasury refused the forms. In order to get them, it said, he would have to fill out form No. 1955 — an application explaining why he wanted the application. And if the application was rejected he couldn't get the applications. A subcommittee spokesman summed it all up well:

"This is a new switch on government red tape. They won't even tell people what kind of red tape they've got to tie them up with."

Time Capsule . . . *By G. E. Mortimore*

Fort Street Ghost

HON. E. N. RHODES, Canada's minister of finance, budgeted for a deficit of $135,200,000, 25 years ago.

Mr. Rhodes announced a new tax of 10 per cent on gold production, and a decrease from two to one per cent a pound in the tax on sugar. Income tax, and sales tax (the latter then 6 per cent) remained unchanged.

J. Morse Hatt, hardware merchant, was elected president of Victoria Rotary Club.

* * *

A GHOST was seen in Victoria, 50 years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Ling Gee awoke with a start at midnight in their house at the corner of Fort and Quadra streets. They "saw come from out of the darkness an indefinite shape which gradually assumed the proportions of a young girl seated upon a rocking chair."

"The nebulous form was that of a little golden-haired girl about 10 years of age. No sound, no movement, but just the silent form in the chair."

The couple moved their sleeping quarters to another room. But they rented the "haunted" room to a couple of Chinese.

Early next morning, the new tenants were found on the street, half-crazy with fear. They had seen the apparition too. They demanded their rent money back.

"It developed that some time ago the young daughter of the couple who had lived in the place had died there in the very room (that) the nightly visitor frequented."

* * *

"NEARLY $100,000 in gold dust was carried away by the steamer Brother Jonathan on her last down trip," the British Colonist reported, 100 years ago.

"It is a significant fact that while the gold yield of British Columbia, with her handful of miners, is gradually augmenting, that of California, with her hundreds of thousands of active miners, is gradually decreasing."

—FROM COLONIST FILES

The Packsack

Of GREGORY CLARK

THE mayor of Timmins, Ontario, was so shocked on getting a close look at the guardsmen at Buckingham Palace on a recent visit overseas to see the moth-eaten condition of the Guards' bearskin headdresses that he promptly launched a campaign for the boys around Timmins to get cracking and collect some bears, of which there are plenty in that region. And they are going to re-outfit the Grenadiers with nice new glossy two-foot-high headdresses.

But it goes further than the headgear. You are supposed to view the Guards from a decent distance. Indeed, it is best to view nearly all ceremonial from a decent distance. This goes for convocations at our own local colleges or for the opening of legislatures, as well as for coronations in London. Don't get in the front row. Get back about Row M.

I can sympathize with the mayor of Timmins. The last coronation I was at, I had to rent a morning coat and striped pants from Moss Bros., the famous London outfitters; and while I was being fitted I saw earls and barons trying on the robes and regalia of their nobility, and even a couple of rented coronets, one of which had to have paper stuffed around the rim in order to fit a viscount's noggin. I was told that far more than half that regal assembly were in rented outfits, most of which, I noted, fitted no better than mine.

Indeed, the mark of the gentleman in the highest society is that a gentleman's clothes look as if they were his late uncle's. Pretty fitting clothes are for the bourgeoisie.